

diversity of additional forms which might be expected by research.

Our knowledge of the native Arachnid and Arachnoid parasites is too meagre, as far as the exact determination of species is concerned, to yet attempt even a preliminary list.

ON A SPECIMEN OF *CREX CREX*, SHOT AT RANDWICK,
NEW SOUTH WALES.

BY ALFRED J. NORTH, F.L.S., Assistant in Ornithology.

Recently Mr. H. Newcombe, Deputy Registrar-General of Titles, presented a freshly shot specimen of *Crex crex* to the Trustees of the Australian Museum. The bird was obtained the previous day, June 14th, 1893, by Mr. Walter Higgs, who was shooting in a scrubby portion of the Rifle Range at Randwick, a well known haunt of the *Rallidæ*. It was an adult female, and upon dissection the ovaries were found to be fairly developed. This species ranges throughout Western Asia, Europe, and the United Kingdom, it also occurs in Northern and North-eastern Africa, and the late Mr. Gurney records it as common during the summer months as far South as Natal, a straggler also being recorded by Mr. Ayres from Cape Colony. It occurs in Asia Minor, Arabia, and Turkestan, and it is stated by Mr. Seeböhm to be common as far North and East as the Altai Mountains; also Dr. Sharpe recently records it in a collection of birds from Fao in the Persian Gulf, but it is not included either by Hume or Murray in the Indian avifauna. Stragglers are recorded by Professor Baird to the Eastern coast of the United States, and Dresser, in his Birds of Europe, states a specimen was said to have been once obtained near Nelson, in New Zealand, but on what authority I know not. Sir Walter Buller does not include it in his Birds of New Zealand. Previously this species has not been recorded from Australia, and although possessed of great powers of flight, it is hard to imagine that the specimen obtained at Randwick, should it have succeeded in reaching Northern Australia by the way of India, Sumatra, and Java, would still have wandered so much farther out of its normal range by crossing the continent to South-eastern Australia. The occurrence of this bird within a few miles of Sydney, where a number of foreign birds are frequently brought

by the different boats of the Continental Shipping Companies, would tend to strengthen the opinion that the specimen is an escaped cage-bird, but unless it has moulted since it obtained its freedom, the perfect condition of plumage it is in points to the contrary.

The specimen has been mounted and placed in the Collection, where it will be available for future reference; but for want of further proof it is undesirable at present to include it in the Australian avifauna.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF PARRAKEET,
OF THE GENUS *PLATYCERCUS*, FROM NORTH-WEST
AUSTRALIA.

BY ALFRED J. NORTH, F.L.S., Assistant in Ornithology.

PLATYCERCUS OCCIDENTALIS, *sp. n.*

Adult female.—Across the forehead a faint indication of a narrow orange-brown band; head and hind neck dull brownish-black, the tips of the feathers above the forehead slightly tinged with green, cheeks light blue passing into bluish-green on the outer and lower sides of the throat; a narrow collar on the lower nape, the lower portion of the breast, and abdomen to the vent, bright lemon-yellow; chest, back, wings, scapulars and their coverts, and the outer sides of the thighs, verditer-green; the median portion of the apical half of the feathers of the chest slightly tinged with yellow; rump, upper, and under tail coverts, light verditer-green, the feathers of the latter having a faint yellowish tinge; primaries black, the apical half of the outer webs of the outermost series grey, the basal half blue; the remainder blue on their outer webs, black at the tips; secondaries, black on their inner webs, verditer-green on the outer, the apical half of the inner webs of the last inner secondaries edged and slightly tipped with pale fulvous-brown; primary-coverts, blue on their outer webs, black on the inner; lesser, median, and greater wing-coverts, verditer-green, the outermost feathers of the latter passing into a pale verdigris-green; under surface of the wings and under